LIVING IN VANCOUVER

We’ll get started in just a few minutes.

Zoom recording

• This session will be recorded and publicly shared.

• If you wish to remain anonymous throughout the recording, you may use an abbreviated or different name. Your camera and audio will be turned off.

• If you have a question, please use the Q&A feature.
Life in Vancouver
Finding a home, settling in, getting around and exploring the city
Vancouver is on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples: **Musqueam** (x̱w̓məθk̓ʷəy̓əm), **Squamish** (Skwxwú7mesh) and **Tsleil-Waututh** (Səl̓ílw̓ətaʔ/Selilwitulh).
INTRODUCTIONS
Agenda

Accommodation
Neighbourhoods
Getting around town
Fun things to do
Resources
## UBC Student Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winter Session Housing</th>
<th>Year Round Housing</th>
<th>Family Housing</th>
<th>Graduate Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September – April</td>
<td>May – April</td>
<td>May – April</td>
<td>Green College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time status</td>
<td>Shared or private rooms</td>
<td>Maximum 4 year tenancy</td>
<td>St. John’s College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must submit a new application if you wish to continue living on campus after winter session</td>
<td>Studios and 1-bedrooms</td>
<td>Couples</td>
<td>Membership required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Once you have a year-round contract, you can stay as long as you are an eligible full-time student</td>
<td>Single adults with one or more dependent children</td>
<td>Mandatory meal plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Acadia Park</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Other campus housing options

• MBA House
• Westpoint: Chancellor Place
• University MarketPlace: University Village
• Axis: studio and 1-bedrooms in Chancellor Place

• Wesbrook Properties
  • Greenwood Commons: Wesbrook Blvd
  • Granite Terrace: Wesbrook Village
  • Vista Point: Thunderbird Blvd
  • Mews: Wesbrook Village
  • Village Square: Wesbrook Village
  • Central: University Blvd on campus
Public schools near campus
Living Off Campus: Neighbourhoods
North Vancouver ➡

Richmond ➥

Burnaby, Coquitlam, Surrey, Langley, etc ➥
Housing & Cost of Living
When to search for housing?

• Rentals available for January are usually posted in November and December.

• Rents available for September are usually posted in July and August.

• BC laws specify a 30 day notice to vacate a property
  • Most rental agreements start on the first day of the month.

• The turn around time for rental units is fast.
  • Keep an eye out for ‘For Rent’ or ‘Vacancy’ signs
Where to search for housing?

Online resources
• Craigslist
• Kijiji
• Padmapper
• Roomatesvancouver
• Walkscore
• RentHello
• RentBC
• UV Rentsline
• ESL Rent

Short-term rentals
• Airbnb
• Homestay.com
• Make Yourself at Home
• Roomorama
Finding roommates and rentals

- Facebook groups
  - UBC Graduate Student Housing Group
  - UBC Roommates and Housing
  - UBC Families
  - UBC students searching for roommates/house/apts rental/sublet
  - For Rent Vancouver
- community.grad.ubc.ca
- Students in your program
A few things to note

**Ok**
- References or credit check
- Co-signer
- First month’s rent upfront
- Security or damage deposit
- Furniture or pet deposit

**Not ok**
- Credit card/bank account info
- Passport, SIN or SSN #s
- Application fee
- Discrimination
- Photocopy of your driver’s license or photo ID

**Renting it Right**: free online course from the Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre which can help you find rental housing and understand your rights.
Additional housing costs

Utilities
Laundry
Deposits & Insurance
Household Items
Parking

Be sure to ask what is included in the rent?
Utilities & laundry

Utilities
• Electricity (BC Hydro)
• Gas (Fortis BC)
• Heat
• Hot water
• Internet
• Cable TV
• Phone service

Laundry
• In-suite
• In-building
• Laundromat?
• Coin-operated or free?
Deposits & Insurance

**Damage or Security Deposit**
- to ensure you maintain and leave your apartment in good condition.
- A maximum of half a month’s rent
- May be refunded upon move-out
- Pet deposit
- Ask for a receipt

**Renter’s (or Tenant’s) Insurance**
- Highly recommended
- Coverage for personal property; liability coverage for injury and property damage
- Minimal monthly cost
- Otherwise you are liable for things like fire, theft, flood, etc.
Household items

Used
- Craigslist & Kijiji
- Garage sales
- Salvation Army
- Value Village
- Facebook

New
- Ikea
- Dollar store
- Shopper’s, London Drugs
- Walmart
- Canadian Superstore
## Cost of living

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>Rent, deposit, utilities</td>
<td>Scholarships, Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>PhD minimum funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living alone or w/ a partner/family</td>
<td>Health insurance</td>
<td>TAship, RAship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of accommodation</td>
<td>Student fees</td>
<td>Loans/Bursaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing location</td>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>Savings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car?</td>
<td>Groceries</td>
<td>Sponsorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child care</td>
<td>Other income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Tuition
- Program
- Living alone or with a partner/family
- Type of accommodation
- Housing location
- Car?
Grocery stores

**Organic/vegan/gluten-free**
Whole Foods, Choices, Greens

**Mediterranean & European**
Parthenon, Jasmine Foods
Various Italian bakeries, grocers, delis on Commercial Drive

**Asian**
Chinatown, Korean H-Mart, Fujiya, T&T
Filipino groceries/bakeries along Joyce Street

**Southeast Asian**
Punjab Food Center, Persia Foods

**South Asian**
Kingsway
Getting Around
Public transit

U-Pass / Compass Card

- included in your fees
- good for all zones

Trip planning

- Translink and Google Maps can plan transit trips
Public transit

Major express buses that travel EW to/from UBC:

- **99 B-line**: To/From Commercial Station along Broadway (9th Ave)
- **84**: To/From VCC-Clark Station along 4th Ave
- **44**: To/From Waterfront Station (downtown) along W 4th Ave
- **R4**: To/From Joyce-Collingwood Station along 41st Ave
- **258**: To/From West Vancouver
- **480**: To/From Bridgeport Station (Richmond)
Cycling in Vancouver

- Helmets & bells are mandatory; lights are required after dark.
- Get a good lock and lock your bike properly. A U-lock is best.
- **Bike Sense** safety and operations manual for cycling in BC.
- Great bike trails: Stanley Park Seawall, UBC Loop, North Shore mountains…
- **The City of Vancouver** website is a great resource for bike routes and maps.
- **Mobi** public bike share program
- **HOPR** campus-wide public bike share program
Cycling on campus

The Bike Kitchen
• Learn how to maintain, repair and build your own bikes
• Kids Bike Library
• Purple and Yellow Bike Share
• Workshops
• Register for free access to secured, shared bike cages

UBC Campus and Community Planning’s Cycling Tips
• Getting started, maintenance, rules, safety

It’s easy to combine cycling and transit.
• Buses have bike racks on the front and the Canada Line has designated spaces for bikes.
Carsharing & ride hailing

Vancouver has several car sharing programs and ride-hailing options.

modo.  
zipcar  
evo  
Uber  
lyft
To and from the airport by taxi
Skytrains
Life in Vancouver

The city of Vancouver
Vancouver is located on the traditional territories of three First Nations: **Musqueam**, **Squamish**, and **Tsleil-Waututh**

Religion & Spirituality – **UBC chaplains**
Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, Bahá'í and Christian (Anglican, Baptist, Brethren Tradition, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and United Churches)

Reduce, reuse, recycle
Vancouver is an eco-friendly city and UBC is aspiring to be a zero-waste campus.

Get outdoors & explore, despite the rain!
Go for a hike, lounge on the beach, take a walk…

First Nations House of Learning
The **FNHL** is located in the First Nations Longhouse on the Point Grey campus.
**Mt. Seymour**
36 km from UBC
28 km from city center

**Cypress Mountain**
39 km from UBC
32 km from city center

**Grouse Mountain**
23 km from UBC
16 km from city center

**Whistler**
132 km from UBC
124 km from city center
Upcoming Webinars

• Budgeting and finances in grad school | June 15
• International student info session | June 16
• Establishing a good support network | June 29
• International student info session | July 5
• Establishing a good relationship with your supervisor | Aug 9

orientation.grad.ubc.ca/events
Questions?
Other resources

• **Cost of Living Calculator** can give you a rough idea about how much living and studying in Vancouver will cost

• **UBC’s off-campus housing guide**

• Take a free workshop from **Graduate Pathways to Success**

• Other ideas for places to go and things to do: **Tourism Vancouver**, **Daily Hive Vancouver**, **Bored in Vancouver**, **Trip Advisor**

• **Vancouver is Awesome**

• **Miss 604**

• **Georgia Straight**